



## Church of the Brethren

### Remembering September 11<sup>th</sup> Action Alert September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Saturday marks the anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks on the United States – and gives people of faith another opportunity to seek to make manifest the reign of God in this world. Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, we have seen our country go to war in both Iraq and Afghanistan, commit acts of torture both in Guantanamo Bay and around the world, and most recently have seen the rhetoric of intolerance increase in the conversations around the Islamic Center in New York City and the planned burning of the Qu’ran in Florida.

[Click here](#) for more information on holding an International Day of Prayer for Peace service, and [click here](#) to encourage Congress to invest in things that make for peace, and not for war.

The people of the Church of the Brethren, however, have in our actions and words been about another way of living – of taking the teachings and life example of Jesus seriously. We have supported the work of [Christian Peacemaker Teams](#), who have been present around the world in areas of conflict, seeking to provide another way. We have held services marking [the International Day of Prayer for Peace](#), supported by [On Earth Peace](#). We have consistently issued statements lamenting both the [war in Afghanistan](#) and the [war in Iraq](#).

This anniversary gives us yet another opportunity to do that. [September 21<sup>st</sup> is the International Day of Prayer for Peace](#), and follows shortly after this anniversary. By holding a public prayer service for peace we can witness for another way. Our country is also in a time of examining our spending priorities – and our federal budget goes a long way towards showing where our priorities are. [Click here](#) to encourage Congress to invest in things that make for peace, and not for war.

#### **Church of the Brethren Policy:**

**1970 Annual Conference Statement, [Statements of the Church of the Brethren on War](#)** reads: The Church of the Brethren, since its beginning in 1708, has repeatedly declared its position against war. Our understanding of the life and the teachings of Christ as revealed in the New Testament led our Annual Conference to state in 1785 that we should not "submit to the higher powers so as to make ourselves their instruments to shed human blood." In 1918 at our Annual Conference we stated that "we believe that war or any participation in war is wrong and incompatible with the spirit, example and teachings of Jesus Christ." Again in 1934 Annual Conference resolved that all war is sin. We, therefore, cannot encourage, engage in, or willingly profit from armed conflict at home or abroad.”

**1991 Annual Conference Statement, [Peacemaking: The Call of God's People in History](#)** reads: The church and Christians are called by God to witness to the gospel of peace with such intensity that nations repent and history is changed. Less than a radical witness can only lead us to accept idols of materialism, personal and national security at the expense of justice, blind nationalism, the glorification of military strength, and dependence on technological solutions for human problems.

Therefore, the Church of the Brethren shall:

1. continue to commit funds, staff and energies to a presence in Washington, D.C., helping our members keep abreast of public issues and speak truth to the principalities and powers;
2. develop networks on the district and national level for study and action on public policies of concern to the church, and to mobilize the church to respond;
3. advance efforts toward a more peaceful world order through supporting the peacemaking efforts of the United Nations and recognizing the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice;
4. work for a more just international economic order in which all people are able to secure their basic human needs;
5. support policies and legislation which radically reduce military spending and convert our national priorities to peaceful and life affirming production;
6. encourage the demilitarization of international relations and promote non-violent forms of defense (civilian-based defense);
7. advocate the forging of bilateral and multilateral agreements and treaties which abolish nuclear, biological, chemical and conventional weaponry;
8. affirm policies which foster human rights at home and abroad.

For more information about the witness ministries of the Church of the Brethren, contact Jordan Blevins, Advocacy Officer for the Church of the Brethren:

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